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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A system comprising:

retrieving means for retrieving an e-mail from a first mail store;

- determining means, coupled to the retrieving means, for using a predetermined
- 4 criterion to determine whether to send the e-mail to a second mail store;
- 5 establishing means, coupled to the determining means, for establishing a
- 6 communications channel with the second mail store; and
- sending means, coupled to the establishing means, for sending the e-mail to the second mail store.
- 1 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the first mail store implements a first protocol.
 - 3. The system of claim 2 wherein the first mail store is located on a mail server.
 - 4. The system of claim 1 wherein the first mail store stores the e-mails in a folder structure, and further comprising means for selecting the folder structure for synchronization of all e-mails therein
- 1 5. The system of claim 3 wherein the retrieving means includes an e-mail engine for
- 2 communicating with the mail server.



The system of claim & wherein the e-mail engine implements the first protocol

- 2 used by the mail server.
- 1 /. The system of claim wherein the e-mail engine identifies the first protocol used
- 2 by the mail server.

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8. The system of claim 1 wherein the predetermined criterion includes a determination of whether the e-mail has already been sent to the second mail store.

1 9. The system of claim 8 wherein the determination is resolved by examining a

2 receipt date corresponding to the e-mail and a last synchronization signature indicating

3 the last date of synchronization.

1 %. The system of claim 1 wherein the establishing means includes a communications

2 module.

11. The system of claim 10 wherein the second mail store is protected by a firewall and the communications module includes security means for communicating through the

3 firewall.

The system of claim 1 wherein the sending means includes a web engine.

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 - 13. The system of claim 1 further comprising a synchronization-start module for using a start criterion to determine when to initiate synchronization.
 - 1 14. A system comprising:
 - 2 an e-mail engine for retrieving an e-mail from a first mail store;
 - an e-mail synchronization module, coupled to the e-mail engine, for using a
 - 4 predetermined criterion to determine whether to send the e-mail to a second mail store;
 - a communications module coupled to the e-mail synchronization module for
 - 6 establishing a communications channel with the second mail store; and
 - a web engine, coupled to the communications module, for sending the e-mail to
 - 8 the second mail store.
 - 15. The system of claim 14 wherein the first mail store implements a first protocol.
 - 16. The system of claim 14 wherein the first mail store is located on a mail server.
 - 7. The system of claim 16 wherein the first mail store stores the e-mails in a folder
 - structure, and further comprising means for selecting the folder structure for
 - 3 synchronization of all e-mails therein.
 - 1 18. The system of claim 16 wherein the e-mail engine implements the first protocol
 - 2 used by the mail server to communicate with the mail server.

- 1 19. The system of claim 18 wherein the e-mail engine identifies the first protocol.
- - 20. The system of claim 14 wherein the predetermined criterion includes a determination of whether the e-mail has already been sent to the second mail store.
 - 1 21. The system of claim 20 wherein the determination is resolved by examining a
 - 2 receipt date corresponding to the e-mail and a last synchronization signature indicating
 - 3 the last date of synchronization.
 - 1 22. The system of claim 14 wherein the second mail store is protected by a firewall
 - 2 and the communications module includes security means for communicating through the
 - 3 firewall.
 - 1 23. The system of claim 14 further comprising a synchronization-start module for
 - 2 using a start criterion to determine when to initiate synchronization.
 - 1 24. A computer-readable storage medium storing program code for causing a
 - 2 computer to perform the steps/of:
 - 3 retrieving an e-mail from a first mail store;
 - 4 using a predeterm/ned criterion to determine whether to send the retrieved e-mail
 - 5 to a second mail store;
 - 6 establishing a communications channel with the second mail store; and
 - 7 sending the retrieved e-mail to the second mail store.



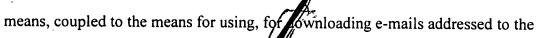


- 1 25. A method comprising
- 2 retrieving an e-mail from a first mail store;
- 3 using a predetermined criterion to determine whether to send the retrieved e-mail
- 4 to a second mail store;
- 5 establishing a communications channel with the second mail store; and
- 6 sending the retrieved e-mail to the second mail store.
- 1 _26__ The method of claim 25 wherein the first mail store implements a first protocol.
- 1 27. The method of claim 26 wherein the first mail store is located on a mail server.
 - 28. The method of claim 27 wherein the first mail store stores the e-mails in a folder structure, and further comprising means for selecting the folder structure for synchronization of all e-mails therein.
- The method of claim 28 wherein the step of retrieving includes using the first protocol.
- 1 30. The method of claim 29 wherein the step of retrieving includes the step of
- 2 identifying the first protocol.

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- 31. The method of claim 25 wherein the step of using a predetermined criterion includes determining whether the e-mail has already been sent to the second mail store.
- 1 32. The method of claim 31 wherein the step of determining includes examining a
- 2 receipt date corresponding to the e-mail and a last synchronization signature which
- 3 indicates the last date of synchronization.
- 1 33. The method of claim 28,
- wherein the second mail store is protected by a firewall; and
- further comprising the step of communicating through the firewall.
- 1 34. The system of claim 25 wherein the second mail store is remotely located and the
- 2 step of sending includes communicating the e-mail through a computer network.
- 1 35. The system of claim 25 further comprising a synchronization-start module for
- 2 using a start criterion to determine when to initiate synchronization.
- 1 36. A system for automatically downloading e-mails for a particular client from a
- 2 mail server/which implements a particular protocol, comprising:
- 3 means for identifying the particular protocol used by the mail server;
- 4 means, coupled to the means for identifying, for using the particular protocol to
- 5 download e-mails from the mail server;







7 particular client.

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- The system of claim 36 wherein the means for identifying includes means for
- receiving configuration information from the mail server.